



SITUATION REPORT #147



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: February 11, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4600
Recovered	4367
Deaths	46
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	6
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	3
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	52,824
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	238
College Place	566
Dixie	20
Prescott	113
Touchet/Lowden	70
Waitsburg	67
Walla Walla	3526
Total	4555



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Confirmed Cases by Age	
Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	598
20-39	1905
40-59	1350
60-79	572
Over 80	175
Confirmed Cases by Gender	
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	1914
Male	2686
TOTAL	4600

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/10 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds
- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, February 2nd
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:



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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 02/15/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
No Current Outstanding Requests	2/10/21	Sharps Containers	With Logistics

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2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.
- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics:
 - Martin Luther King holiday – 900 doses
 - January 23 – 1002 doses
 - February 3 - 600 doses (this was a smaller clinic due to Superior Court trial at Fairgrounds)
 - February 6 – 1546 doses



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- Equity Task Force rollout has successful. They have been able to schedule appointments for everyone who has contacted them.

3. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 4600
 - ❖ Recovered: 4,367
 - ❖ Active: 187
 - 181 in-home isolation & hospitalization data not available at time of report
 - 9 hospitalized; 6 in county 3 out of county
 - ❖ Deaths: 44
 - Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above:
 - ❖ 5 incarcerated active
 - ❖ 2 staff active
 - **TRENDS**
 - ❖ Concern some household and family members deciding not to get tested, therefore true disease activity may be skewed
 - ❖ Gatherings of 5 – 15 people
 - ❖ Traveling – local interstate for sports tournaments, interstate and international.
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- 'COVID fatigue' is very high with additional challenges presented by winter: more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Needle and nitrile glove shortage continues to be an issue across the state.
- DCH experiencing large number of calls from residents interested in receiving COVID vaccine.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- Logistical challenges to meet new requirement that 95% of allocation is used up to take delivery of additional vaccine.
- Inconsistent vaccine allocation. Concern for reduced allocation of vaccine because of prioritization of regional hubs. Not everyone can travel to the hub for their immunization.
- Additional traffic and security concerns due to high profile Superior Court trial that is being held at the same location as the COVID clinic (Walla Walla County Fairgrounds).
- Continued confusion reported about how to qualify for indoor open-air ventilated dining. Recent changes made by the Governor's office. Suggestion made that there be a flyer that can be distributed. DCH will touch base with Environmental Health team.



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- Winter-like weather expected for Thursday's vaccine clinic, temps in the 20's, 20% chance of snow.
- Inconsistent/untimely COVID data provided by the State.
- Ongoing staffing issues for parking/traffic at the mass vaccination clinic. A strong presence is needed with qualified personnel that can deescalate situations where people show up for vaccine without an appointment. DCH had hoped that WA NG soldiers would be able to assist, but we have been informed that WA NG are not available for traffic control.
- Winter weather in the forecast affecting testing sites and vaccination clinics:
 - **Today (Vaccine Clinic Day)**
A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 27. North wind 3 to 7 mph. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.
 - **Tonight**
Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 14. Northwest wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.
 - **Friday**
A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 24. West wind around 5 mph.
 - **Friday Night**
Snow, mainly after 5am. Low around 17. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.
 - **Saturday (Vaccine Clinic Day)**
Snow, mainly before 5pm. High near 24. Southwest wind 9 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

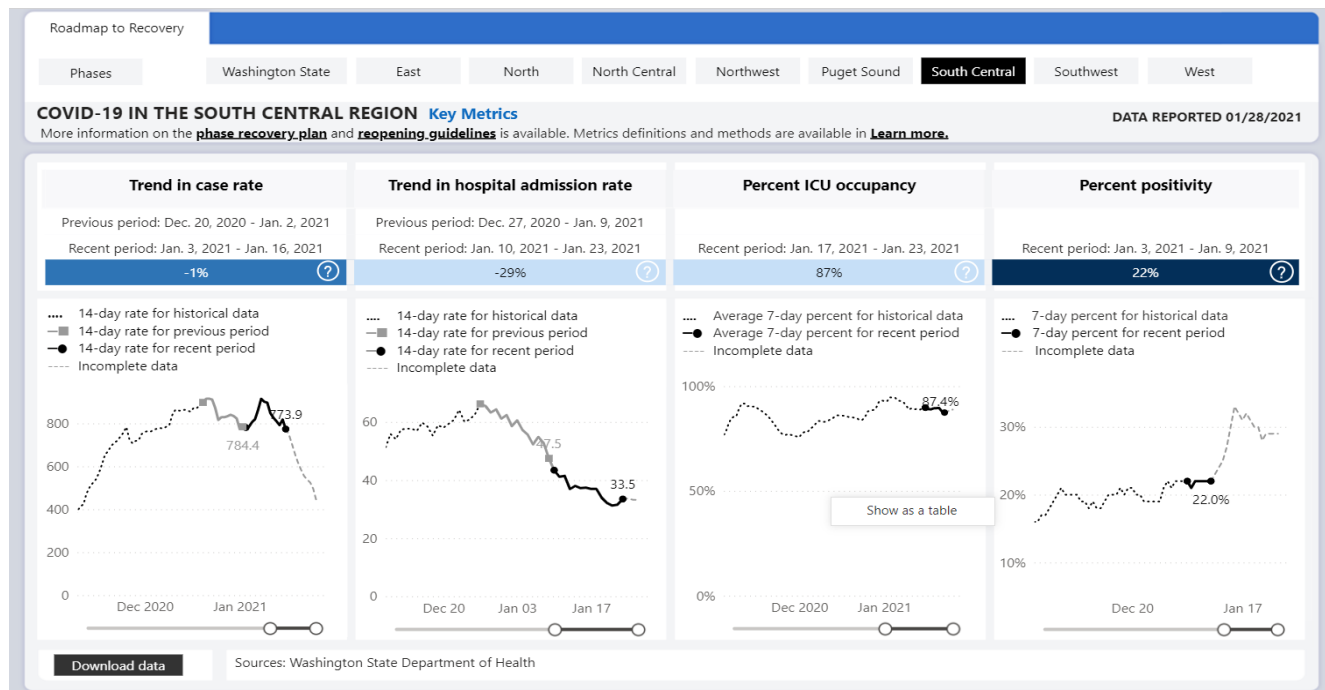
- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
- Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement will assist PSMMC with vaccination clinic volunteer scheduling using the newly launched Walla Walla Volunteer Corps [website](#).
- Bi-weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Local Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday.
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.



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- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition:
 - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
 - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
 - Bi-weekly (change from weekly) workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
- City of College Place meeting every Wednesday with Mayor and managers for the South/Central region.
- 1st dose clinic today, February 11, 2nd dose clinic on February 13.
- VA Medical Center (VAMC) planning drive thru clinic on February 20th in Richland.
- VAMC has daily vaccine clinics all week and will hold a 500-dose clinic this Saturday.
- Schools proposing testing sites provide a form that would allow schools or places of work know that there has been a positive test. Contact is currently made as part of contact tracing. Hoping to get info to school before contact tracing. Workgroup project.
- DCH will know allocation for next week tonight or tomorrow.
- Athletics have resumed at public schools. Schools are looking at what sporting events will look like if we move to Phase 2.

[Roadmap to Recovery Metrics for South Central Region](#) (Phase 1)



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COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office